Calcoen.

A NARRATIVE OF THE SECOND VOYAGE OF VASCO DA GAMA TO CALICUT.

1502.

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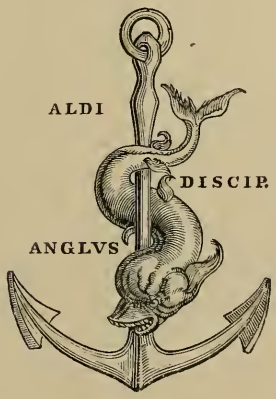
Calcoen

A DUTCH NARRATIVE OF THE SECOND VOYAGE OF VASCO DA GAMA TO CALICUT

Printed at Antwerp circa 1504

WITH INTRODUCTION AND TRANSLATION

BY J. Ph. BERJEAU



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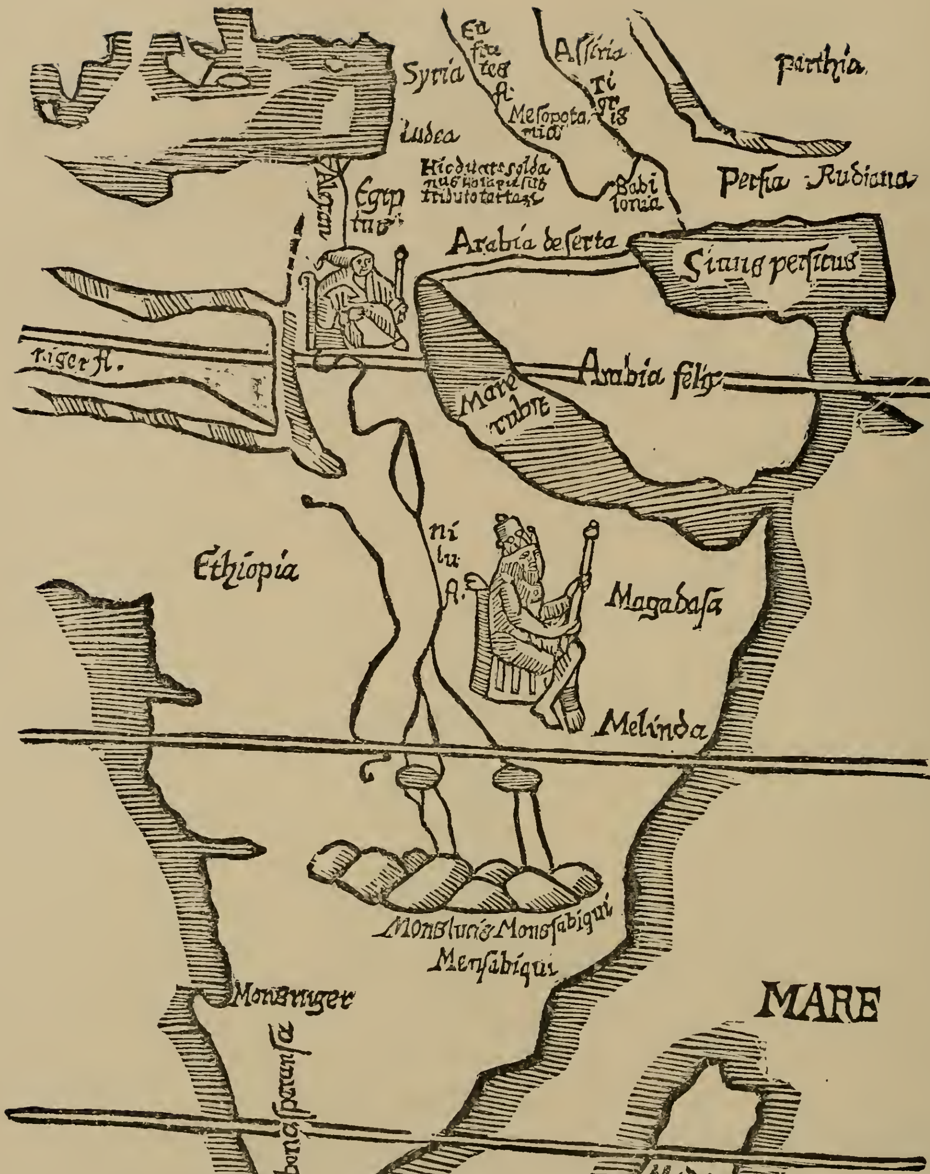

Syria
Assiria
parthia
Iudea
Mesopota mia
Ti gris
Egip tus
Babi lonia
Persia
Rudiana
Arabia deserta
Sinus persicus
Arabia felix
Mare rubre
ni lu fl.
Ethiopia
Magadasa
Melinda
Mensabiqui
MARE
Mada gascar

C 144 D

Introduction.

THE name of Vaſco da Gama is not even mentioned in the following narrative, but there is no doubt it applies to the ſecond voyage of the great navigator to India; and as the book is no tranſlation of any previous work in Portugueſe, Spaniſh, or Italian, we muſt come to the concluſion it was written by a Dutch officer or ſailor, who took an active part in the expedition. The dates, events, and places mentioned agree with all we know of the ſecond voyage of the Portugueſe Admiral, whilſt our narrative, until now unnoticed by bibliographers, ſupplies intereſting details unmentioned by Galvão, Ramuſio, Caſtanheda, Faria, Barros, &c.

Some ten years ago a well-known bibliophile, who had the book, aſked me to tranſlate it for him into French; I did ſo haſtily, and was not quite ſatisfied with my tranſlation. But having had lately the good fortune to find again the original and my tranſlation bound together in the Britiſh Muſeum, and the truſtees

of the great Engliſh national library having kindly allowed me to take a fac-ſimile of it, I am enabled to offer the public a reproduction of this intereſting document, with an improved tranſlation into Engliſh.

The book begins with a "hors d'œuvre" perſonal to the writer, and relating to one of the unfortunate expeditions undertaken by the Portugueſe on the coaſt of Barbary againſt the celebrated Barbaroſſa, but that is diſpoſed of in half a page.

In ſo early a narrative of voyage in countries unknown to the author, it was to be expected the names of places could not be accurately written; but with a little trouble it is eaſy to reconcile the ſpelling with the modern names.

Thus, the firſt land ſeen after the departure from Liſbon, on the 10th of February, 1502, is called *Kenan*, which undoubtedly is Cape Non on the weſt coaſt of Africa, oppoſite the Canaries. The name of Cape Verde, the next ſtation, is omitted, but its diſtance from Portugal accurately ſtated. On the 29th of March the expedition loſt ſight of the Polar ſtar, and on the 2nd of April they were under the Line, and in the ſouthern hemiſphere a week later.

Then, they were beaten about by a ſtorm which during twelve days drove them out of their track. Another heavy ſtorm caught them about the ſtormy cape miſnamed that of Good Hope.

On the 14th of June they arrived before *Scafal*

(Sofala), in Kaffir-land, which our author calls the Paepian's country, very likely from the kingdom of Sabia, near by. Vaſco da Gama went to Sofala with only four ſhips, the remainder of his fleet having been ordered to ſail direct for Mozambique, which our author calls *Miſkebijc*.

On the following 18th of July they left Sofala for *Hylo*, which is a miſprint, later corrected in the book as *Kylo*, for Quiloa, where the king was obliged to pay tribute and homage to the King of Portugal.

Melinda, where they ſhould have arrived on the 20th of July, is the next ſtopping place; but they miſſed it and went to the cape of Saint Mary, which muſt be the Ras Mory, forming the eaſtern point of the Iſland of Socotra, and whoſe Arabic name anſwers to Cape Saint Mary. The iſland was then mainly inhabited by Greek Chriſtians. L'abbé Prévoſt, "Hiſtoire des Voyages," vol. i. p. 80 (La Haye, 1747, 4°), ſays: "Mais un vent impétueux le pouſſa huit lieues au-delà de cette ville dans une baye, où il trouva pluſieurs vaiſſeaux Mores et quelques-uns de Calecut dont il ſe ſaiſit."

There, our author ſays, they left the country of the Paepians; for Kaffir-land was at that time ſuppoſed to reach Abyſſinia in the north and the Cape on the ſouth, and they ſailed for *Marabia*, no doubt a miſprint for Iram-Arabia.

On Auguſt 21ſt they ſaw for the firſt time the land of India and the great city of *Combaen*, the Cambaeth

of Marco Polo, the modern Cambay, on the river Cobar (Saubermattee).

The next ſtation, called *Oan*, is no doubt Goa, where the Portugueſe come into colliſion with the Indians, take 400 ſhips, and burn them after having killed their defenders. The iſland of *Auidibe*, where they took water and landed 300 of their invalids, is Anjeedeeva, which for a long time after was a ſtation where all the Portugueſe ſhips called before touching the continent of India.

The *Montebyl* of our author, in the kingdom of *Cannaer* (Cananor), is the Mount Ely of Marco Polo. There they watched for the Mecca ſhips, attacked the *Merii*, plundered it, killed and burnt all the people on board, on the 1ſt of October.

Our author does not ſay that in this action, ſo diſhonourable for the memory of Vaſco da Gama, the children from the captured ſhips were ſaved and brought on board the Admiral's caravel, as it was affirmed later by other hiſtorians.

On the 27th of October they ſailed from Cananor, and arrived at *Calcoen* (in Sanſcrit Khalikhodon, in Engliſh Calicut), where they fought during three days againſt the troops of the *Samudrya-radjâ* (the king of the ſea-ſhore), whom early European writers call the *Zamorin*. Then, already, Flemiſh merchants, who had come through Egypt or Perſia, were eſtabliſhed in Calicut, as it is ſtated in King Manoel's "Copia de una lettera," (*Roma*, 1505) :—Vi ſono mercadāti

d' tutte q̃lle parti e d' mercantia como Bruges ī Flandria, Venetia ī Italia."

The barbarous device reſorted to by Vaſco da Gama of ſending adrift towards the town a ſhip loaded with the cut heads, hands, and feet of his priſoners of war, has been related and cenſured as it deſerves by later hiſtorians of the expedition.

The kingdom of Granor, mentioned as ſituate between *Calcoen* (Calicut) and *Kuſſchaïn* (Cochin) is no doubt that of Travancore, where our author ſays there were a great number of Chriſtians and Jews, living under the ſame prince. Like all early travellers to India, Vaſco da Gama and his companions miſtook the ſectators of Brama and Bouddha for Chriſtians, becauſe they worſhipped the images of the Virgin Mary brought in the Portugueſe ſhips, miſtaking them for the repreſentation of Maha Madja holding in her lap her ſon Shakya. The ſimilarity of the name of the Indian goddeſs, no leſs than the aureolas ſurrounding the heads of the mother and ſon, induced the Portugueſe to make the ſame miſtake when they entered a native temple. No doubt there were at this time in the Indian Peninſula a certain number of Neſtorians, but not ſo large as the Portugueſe imagined. The figures of 25,000 Chriſtians and 300 Chriſtian churches given by our author as eſtabliſhed at *Coloen* (Culan, Quilom), as well as the repugnance of the ſo-called Chriſtians to deal, eat, or drink with perſons of another creed, clearly ſhow the miſtake.

The town mentioned from hearſay as *Lapis* is Meliapour near Madras, where, according to a mediæval tradition, St. Thomas the Apoſtle was put to death, whilſt another ſays it was in the town of Calamina, whence his body was tranſported to Edeſſa, which our author calls *Ediſſen*, ſtating it is four days' diſtant from Meliapour. The Portugueſe maintain that having found the body of the ſaint in the ruins of the latter town, they carried it to Goa, where it is ſtill worſhipped; but this aſſertion is ſubſtantiated by very ſlender proofs indeed.

Our author calls the betel, *tombour;* whilſt Alvaro Velho names it *atambor*, both being miſnomers, from the page carrying the box which contains it being called *tombuldar*.

The civet-cat is ſo clearly deſcribed that it was impoſſible not to tranſlate by *muſc* the word *iubot*, although it is not to be found in any old or modern Flemiſh or Dutch dictionary.

In relating the ſecond battle which Vaſco da Gama, on his return from Cochin, fought with a ſingle ſhip againſt the king of Calicut on the 12th of February, 1503, the Dutch narrator does not mention the timely arrival of Vicente Sodre, who with the remainder of the fleet decided the action, and prevented the defeat of Vaſco da Gama. While the latter began his return voyage to Portugal, Sodre remained behind to blockade the Red Sea.

Whether the two iſlands, which the returning expedi-

tion ſighted on the 26th of March, were the famous male and female iſlands of Marco Polo, which have never been found ſince the days of the Venetian traveller, is uncertain; for Vaſco da Gama, on account of the valuable goods which filled his ſhip, would not land there in ſpite of the incitements of the inhabitants.

The day of the return to Portugal is not mentioned by our author.

To ſum up: this Dutch narrative, tranſlated as literally as poſſible from the original, fixes many of the dates and facts already known, whilſt, as ſaid before, it ſupplies many new intereſting details of the ſecond voyage which the great Portugueſe navigator made round the Cape of Good Hope.

The original book here reprinted, is noted in the Catalogue of the Britiſh Muſeum as printed at Antwerp in 1504(?), which may be aſcertained by the compariſon of the types with thoſe of books printed at the ſame place and date, and the condition of the engraving of the Crucifixion at the end of the book, merely to fill a page, and which ſhows this peculiarity, that the inſcription on the ſcroll, "*Deus q̄ pro redēptiōe*" is reverſed; whilſt the word INRI, at the top of the croſs, is not reverſed. The map of Africa ſupplied at the beginning of this Introduction, ſhowing the two lakes where the Nile takes its ſource, does not belong to the book itſelf, but is taken from "Ptolemæi C. Tabula noua totius orbis," Lugduni 1541 fol.

Calcon

Dit is die reyse die een man self bescreuen he
uer die seylde mit.lxx.scepē wt die riuier vā
lisboen in poertegael na Calcoen in Indien eñ ge
schiede int iaer.xv.C.eñ een. Eñ seyldē langes die
kust van barbarien eñ quamen voer een stat ghe
noemt Meskebijl eñ worden daer of gheslaghen
mit grote scade eñ scande eñ wi verloren dair veel
kerstē daer god die siel of moet hebben. Dese slach
gheschiede op sint Jacobs dach anno preditto

Dat slot leyt een mijl van die stadt ghenoemt
Oeraen eñ dair comen veel quade kersten coeplu
den van Veneetgen eñ Geneuen eñ vercopen dē
turckē harnas bossen eñ ander tuych om teghen
die kersten te vechten eñ si hebbē daer haer stapel

It was ses maendē aen die kust vā barbarien.
eñ leet veel armoede in die strate

Int iaer.xv.C.eñ twee dē.x.dach in Februario
so voeren wi wt die riuier van lisboen ende setten
ons koers na Indien.

Dat eerste lant dat wij vondē was ghenoemt
Renan. eñ sijn veel eylanden ende behoren meest
den coninck van spaengen eñ sijn wel.ij.C.milen
van poertegael.

Wi sijn van daen gheuaren ende hebben ons
koers gheset suyden ten oesten. eñ sijn ghecomen
tot die cape daer wi bi nae ghebleuen waren eñ is
vā Poertegael wel.v.C.milē. Daer loept dat volc
al naect mannen eñ vrouwen eñ sijn swart. eñ en
hebbē gheen scaemte wāt si en dragen geen cleder

eñ die vrouwen houden haren mannen ghelijck
sceminckelen. si en weten goet noch quaet

Den. v. dach in Maerte hebbē wij ons koerts
gheset suytwest hondert milen in die zee.

Den xxix. dach in Maerte so voerē wi in die zee
wel xij. C. milen van Poertegael eñ dair verloren
wi die wagen eñ die sonne was bouē onse hooft so
dat wi gheen scim of scae vā ghenen dingen moch
ten sien noch gheen hemel teikē dē ij. dach in April

In dese zee sagen wi visschen vliegen met vlo/
ghelen also verre alsmen met een armborst mach
schieten eñ sijn groot ghelijc een makereel of een
harinc of een sardijn. Eñ wel drie hondert milē du
rende saghen wi swarte meeuwen mit witte bor.
sten eñ hadden staerten ghelijc swanē eñ syn gro/
ter dan wouduuen: dese vangen dese vlieghende
visschen al vlieghende

Den xi. dach in April warē wi soe verre dat wi
sagen optē rechten middach die sonne int noordē

Op die selue tijt en haddē wi geen hemel teikē
daer wij ons mede behelpen mochten noch sonne
noch mane dan ons cōpasse eñ ons kaerten

Daer nae quamen wi in een ander meer daer
en was niet leuens in noch visch noch vleysche of
yet anders

Den. xx. dach in April quam ons die wint con/
trart vijf weken lanc eñ brochte ons wten rechten
wech dusent milen eñ daer waren wij wel. xij. da/
ghen dat wi lant noch sant en saghen.

Den xxij. dach in Meye wast daer winter eñ die dagē en warē daer mer acht vren lanc eñ twas ser grote tempeest van reghen vā hagel van snee van donre van blixem. Den hemel stont open te ghen die cape de boen speranci eñ was onweeder Als wi ghecomen waren om die cape hebben wij ons koers gheset noertoost.

Den. x. dach in Junio saghen wi weder om die waghen ende die noortsterre ende hadden weder kennisse vanden hemel waer om dat wi seer ver/ blijt waren.

Den xiiij. dach in iunio quamen wi aen eē stat ghenoemt Scafal eñ daer begheerdē wij te copen eñ vercopē mer si en wildent ons niet ghedoghen wāt si grote sorghe hebben voer paepians water daer comt een riuier wt paepians lant wāt paep ians lant leit binnē dat lant beslotē vā die muerē eñ en heeft geen wtganc vā die zee dan dye riuier vā scafal daer om waren si v̄uaert anxt hebbende dat wi dien wech vindē mochten want die coninc van Scafal heeft altijt oerloghe teghen paepian. want wi spraken mit volck wt paepians lant die daer gheuanghen waren eñ waren haer luyden slauoenen want paepians lant oueruloept in sil/ uer gout eñ ghesteentē eñ rijcdomme eñ dese stat leyt. CCCC. milen vandie caep de boen speranci.

Van daen sijn wi gkeuarē aen een eylant ghe noemt Mis kebijc eñ leit. CC. milen van scafal eñ tlant is genoemt Maerabite eñ daer en kentmē geen gelt mer si mangelē gout siluer om and̄ goet

Den xviij. dach in Julio sijn wi vā daer gheua
ren eñ sijn ghecomē aen een conincrijc ghenoemt
Hylo eñ daer is een rijc coninc. eñ dien hebben wi
bedwongen dat hi den coninc vā poertegael moet
geuē Jaerlicx xv. C. matcallē. elc matcal is vlaems
ghelt. ix. ℔ iiij. d̄ Noch heeft hi vanden seluē coninc
een bannier in een teyken dat hi hē kent voer sijn
heer. Mer doe die coninc wt sijn hof quam so wor/
pen si hem mit water eñ rijs ouer sijn hoeft eñ wa
ren seer blide eñ sloeghen haer handen eñ songen
eñ sprongen recht op. Die coninc eñ al tvolc loept
naect mannen eñ vrouwen mer hebben een cleet
voer haer scamelheit eñ gaen hem alle daghe was
schen in die zee Daer sijn ossen sonder hoeruē mer
hebben op haer rugghe ghelijc een sale. Daer sijn
oec scapen met grote staertē dair gheen been in en
is eñ die start is beter dan half tscaep Daer sijn oec
bontecrayen eñ sijn swart eñ wit Daer wassen oec
vighen eñ sijn wel van twee hant breet

Den. xx. dach in Julio voeren wij van daen eñ
quamē aen een eylant ghenoemt Melijnde eñ is
hondert milen van kilo· Mer wi hebben ghemist
eñ sijn ghecomē tot die cape sinte maria. eñ hebbē
onse dingē dair gestelt eñ wi moestē dair ouer een
golue wel. vij. C. milen wijt. Daer lieten wi paep
ians lant leggen eñ tlant vā Marabia eñ was dē
xxx. dach in iulio. Eñ wi waren van daer gheuarē
C. milen doe setten wi ons koers noertoest.

Men sal weten dat vanden april tot september
altijt daer winter is ende die wint wayt dan suyt/

oest altijt Eñ van september totten april ist somer eñ dan waeyt die wint altijt noertoest van elc een half iaer. Ende hoe die wint is soe is die stroom, eñ indē somer ist seer quaetwesen wāt ic hebt besocht een iaer lanc.

Opten vijften dach in Augusto saghen wy die noortsterre daer wij blyde om waren want wi en waren doe mer vijf hondert milen van Indien

Wij seylden in xv. daghen ouer dat grote golf van. vij C. eñ lxx. milen opten. xxi. dach is augusto dat wi saghen tlant van Indien eñ sagen een grote stadt ghenoemt Combaen eñ is een grote coop stat eñ leit aen tlant van Caldeen daer babilonien in leyt op die riuier van Cobar

Aen dit lant verbi hoech arabien leit die stadt Mecha daer machomet leit die heydens duuel eñ die stadt leyt. vi. C. milen van orientē daer die specerien paerlen ghesteenten in onsen landē comen ouer een golf.

Wi voeren verbi een stat ghenoemt Oan eñ daer is een coninc Dese coninc had wel viij. dusent paerden eñ. vij. Colifanten van wapen alleen int lant. Eñ elcke stadt heeft sijn coninc eñ wij namen daer. iiij C. scepen van die stat Oan eñ sloegen dat volc doot eñ branden die scepen

Van daen sijn wi ghevarē eñ sijn gecomē in eē eylāt ghenoemt Auidibe daer namē wij water eñ hout eñ wi brochten onse siecken aent lant wel. iij C. eñ wi dodē dair eē haechdisse wel vā v. voetē lāc

Den xi. dach in september sijn wi vā daen ghe
comē in een conincrijc ghenoemt Cannaer eñ leyt
aen een ghebercht ghenoemt Montebyl. eñ daer
wachten wi die scepen van Mecha eñ dat sijn dye
scepen die die specerien ouer brengen in onsen lan
den eñ die wouden wi verderuen eñ soe soude die
coninc van Poertegael alleen die specerie daer ge
haelt hebben. mer wi en condent niet volbrengen
Mer die selue tijt namen wi een scip van Mecha
daer waren in drie hondert mannē eñ tachtich eñ
veel vrouwen eñ kinderen Eñ wi namen daer wt
wel. xij. dusent ducaten eñ noch wel x. dusent an co
manscap Eñ wi verbranden dat scip eñ al dat volc
te puluer den eersten dach in october

Daer sijn oec harten die hebben oec grote hoor
nen eñ gaen recht op van haer hooft ende sijn ghe
draept ghelijc een visel.

Den. xx. dach in october ghinghen wi opt lant
van Cannaer eñ maecten daer coep van alle spece
rien eñ die coninck outfinc ons mit groter staet eñ
brocht voer hē twee olifanten eñ meer and vreem
de beesten die ic niet nomen en can

Den. xxvij. dach in october voerē wi van daen
eñ sijn gecomē aen eē conincrijc genoemt Caloen
eñ leit xl. milē vā Cānaer daer sijn wi voer die stat
gaen leggen met onser macht eñ sloegē met hē. iij
dagen eñ vingen veel volcs eñ hingen die aen die
repen vanden scepe eñ namen die weder eñ sloe
ghen hē handē eñ voetē eñ thoeft of. eñ namē een

van haer scepen eñ worpen die handē eñ voetē eñ hoofdē daer in eñ maecten eenē brief eñ setten dye op een stoc eñ lieten dat scip ant lant driuē Wi namen daer een scip eñ stakē tvier daer in eñ v̄branden veel van des conincs ondersaten

Den. ij. dach in nouember voeren wi van Caloen lx. milen aen een stat ghenoemt Cusschijn eñ tusschen dese twee steden leyt een kersten stat ghenoemt Granor eñ daer sijn veel goede kersten. eñ in die stat wonen veel ioden eñ hebben een prince daer si onder staen so sijn oec alle die ioden van die lande onder den seluē prince. Eñ die kerstē en hebben mit niemant te doen eñ sijn goede kersten eñ en copen noch en vercopē niet op heylighe dagen noch en eten noch en drincken mit niemāt dā met kersten Si quamen wel in onse scepē mit hoenderen mit stapen eñ deden ons goet chier. Eñ hebbē nv priesters aen den paeus ghesonden te Romen om te weten dat rechte gheloue

Den. xxviij. dach in nouēber ghingen wi aent lant vā Cusschijn om mitten coninc te spreken. eñ die coninc quam bi ons met grote staet eñ brochte met hē. vi. olifantē van wapen want hi heeft veel olifanten in sijn lant eñ veel vreemde beestē dye ic niet en kenne So hebben onse heren die wi bi ons hadden metten coninc ghesproken om die coep te maken van specerie eñ ander dinghen.

Den iij. dach in ianuario sijn wi van daen gheuaren tot een stadt die hiet Coloen. eñ daer comen veel goede kersten eñ hebben ons ghedaen. ij. sce-

pen mit specerie eñ der kerstē isser wel xxv. dusent eñ gheuen tribuyt ghelijc die iodē mit ons eñ hebben daer wel. CCC. kersten kercken ende sijn ghenoemt naden apostelen eñ ander heilighen. Van Coloen. l milen leyt een eylāt eñ hiet Steloen eñ daer wast die beste caneel diemen vint.

Van Coloen. vj. dachuaert leyt een stadt ende hiet Lapis eñ daer bi leyt sinte Thomas in die zee. daermen. xiiij. dagen omtrent sinen dach doer die zee droechs voets ingaet Eñ gheeft een yeghelick diet waerdich is theilighe sacrament. ende ontrectet den ghenen diet onwaerdich sijn Eñ dit is vier dachuaerden van die grote stat van Edissen daer hi dat grote pallaes maecte. Mer dese stadt voerscreuē Lapis is meest al ghedestrueert eñ die kersten woenen daer medē op tribuyt. ende al tvolck loept naect coninc coninghinne dan dat ū haer scamelheit bedecken.

Van Coloen. viij. C. milen leyt een grote stadt ghenoemt Melatk ende van daer comen die beste naghelen eñ notenmuscaten ende ander costelijcke comanscap eñ ghesteente.

Dat volck van die landen hebben swarte tanden want si eten bladeren van boemen ende wit dinck oft crijt waer met die bladen ende daer worden haer tanden of swart ende is ghenoemt tomboer ende hebbent altijt bij hem waer dat si gaen of reysen. Die peper wast ghelijck die wijngaert doet met ons.

In die landen sijn catten soe groot als met ons

vossen ende van hem comt die iubot eñ is seer cos/
telijc want een cat is waert hondert ducaten ende
dye iubot wast tusschen haer beenen onder haer
start.

Die gengeuaer wast alst riet doet eñ die caneel
als grienden, eñ alle iaer sciltmen die caneel ende
hoe hi dunre eñ nieuwer is so si beter is Die rech/
te somer is in december eñ in ianuario.

Den xij. dach in Februario so sloeghen wi met
ten coninc van Calcoen met xxxv. scepen behaluē
die roeyscepē. in elc roeyscip mocht wesen lx of lxx.
man eñ wij en hadden bouen xxij. man nyet ende
god gaf ons die graci eñ wi sloegen ons daer doer
Eñ namen daer twee grote scepen van hē eñ sloe/
ghen alt volc doot eñ branden die scepen voer dye
stat van Calcoen daer die coninc teghen woerdich
was. Eñ des anderen daechs ghinghen wi weder
tseyl na Cannair ende maecten ons rede te varen
nae Poertegael Dit gheschiede anno. xv. C eñ. iij.
opten. xij dach in Februario.

Den. xxij. dach in maert nader sonnen onder/
ganc was si noorden eñ wi verloren die noortster/
re opten. xiij. dach in maerte

Wi vondē opten xxvi. dach in maert. ij. eylan
den mer wi en wilden dair niet aen om dat wi mit
costelike goeden gheladdn waren. eñ als t volc vā
den landen dat sagen dat wi daer niet en quamen
maecten si groot vier dat wi aen comen souden

Optē x. dach in April so sagen wy wed paepiās

lant eñ doe haddē wi.xlviij.dagē opt golf geweest

Den.xiij.dach in April so sagen wi dat lant vā Mes kebyl voer of ghescreuen eñ daer laghen wi tottē xvi.dach in Junio eñ wi sijn vā daen tseyl ge gaen eñ dan sijn die dagen alder cortste.

Daer leyt een groot conincrijc ghenoemt Co/loen voerscreuē daer wassen die paerlē in manier vā woesterē in die zee.mer die zee en is bouē iiij.of vijf vaem niet diep Eñ daer zij visschers diese mit houtē pramen visschē settēde die pramen op haer mont of nose eñ vallē dan onder water wāt si mo/ghen wel eē qnartier vā eē vre ond water.eñ als si wat gheuangē hebbē comē si bouē eñ so voert an.

Den.xiiij.dach in Junio begonst ons broot eñ vitali te begheuen eñ wi waren doe noch wel xvij C.eñ lxxx.milen van lis boen.

Den.xxx.dach in Junio soe vonden wij een ey/lant eñ daer sloegen wi wel.iij C.menschē doot eñ vinghender veel eñ namen dair water eñ voeren van daer deñ eersten dach in Augusto.

Den xiij.dach in Augusto sagen wi weder dye noortsterre eñ doe hadden wi wel noch.vi.C.milē van Poertegael.

Int iaer.xv.C.eñ.y.verloren die onghelouige C.eñ lxxx.scepen·mer en hadden si die scepen niet quijt gheweest so hadden wi daer qualijc aen ghe/weest want si waren onse vianden.

Eñ alsoe quamen wy weder om behouden in Poertegael. Deo gracias.

(*Facſimile by Armagnac & Co.*, 215, *Seymour Street, Euſton Square.*)

Calicut.

THIS is the voyage which a man wrote himſelf, how far he ſailed with ſeventy ſhips from the river of Liſbon, in Portugal, to go to Calicut in India, and this occurred in the year 1501. And they ſailed along the coaſt of Barbary, and came before a town called Meſkebijl,[1] and were there defeated with great loſs and diſhonour, and we loſt there many Chriſtians, whoſe ſouls God muſt have had. This battle took place the day of St. James, of the above ſaid year.

That caſtle is one mile from the town called Oeraen,[2] and there come many wicked Chriſtian merchants from Venice and Genoa, and they ſell to the Turks ſuits of armour, arquebuſſes, and ammunition to fight againſt the Chriſtians, and they have there their ſtaple.

I was ſix months on the coaſt of Barbary, and ſuffered much miſery in the Straits.[3]

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[1] Mers el Kebir. [2] Oran. [3] Of Gibraltar?

In the year 1502, on the 10th day of February, we ſailed from the river of Liſbon, and took our courſe to India.

The firſt land which we found was called Kenan,[1] and there are many iſlands which moſtly belong to the King of Spain, and they are well 200 miles from Portugal.

We ſailed thence, and directed our courſe to ſouth-eaſt, and arrived at the cape,[2] near which we had remained, and it is well 500 miles from Portugal. The people there walk ſtark naked, men and women, and they are black. And they have no ſhame, for they wear no clothes, and the women have converſe with their men like monkeys, and they know neither good nor evil.

On the 5th day of March we directed our courſe by ſouth-weſt, 100 miles out at ſea.

On the 29th day of March we were ſailing at leaſt 1,200 miles from Portugal, and there we loſt ſight of the Great Bear, and the ſun was above our head, ſo that we could not ſee the ſhadow of anything, nor any mark in the ſky on the 2nd day of April.

In that ſea we ſaw fiſhes flying with the birds, as far as a man may ſhoot with a croſs bow; and they are as big as a mackerel, a herring, or a pilcher. And

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[1] Cape Nun, on the coaſt oppoſite the Canaries.

[2] Cape de Verde.

during a courſe of at leaſt 300 miles, we ſaw black gulls with white throats; their tail is like that of a ſwan, and they are bigger than wood pigeons; they were catching the flying fiſhes as they were flying.

On the 11th of April we were ſo far, that preciſely at noon we ſaw the ſun to the north.

At the ſame time we had in the ſky no mark which could help us, neither ſun nor moon, but our compaſs and our maps.

Then we came to another ſea, where there was nothing living, neither fiſh nor fleſh, nor anything elſe.

On the 20th day of April the wind turned againſt us, and laſted five weeks, driving us a thouſand miles out of the direct route, and we were fairly twelve days without ſighting any land or ſand.

On the 22nd day of May, there was winter there, and the days laſted only eight hours; and there was a great ſtorm of rain, hail, ſnow, thunder and lightning. The ſky was open towards the Cape of Good Hope, and there was a ſtorm. When we were arrived near the Cape, we directed our courſe to the north-eaſt.

On the 10th day of June we could ſee neither the Great Bear nor the Polar Star, and we did not know the ſky, which threw us in great perplexity.

On the 14th of June we arrived before a town called Scafal,[1] and there we aſked to buy and ſell;

[1] Sofala.

but they would not allow it to us, becauſe the inhabitants felt great anxieties from the ſide of the Paepians' river;[1] there flows a river from the country of the Paepians,[2] for the country of the Paepians[3] is ſituate in the interior of that country, ſhut by the walls, and they have no other iſſue towards the ſea than the river of Scafal, and they were diſturbed with anxiety leſt we might diſcover that road; becauſe the King of Scafal was then making war againſt the Paepians. For we ſpoke with the people of the Paepians' country, who had been made priſoners, and were their ſlave people; for the Paepians' country abounds in ſilver, gold, precious ſtones and riches, and this kingdom is 400 miles from the Cape of Good Hope.

Thence we ſailed for an iſland called Miſkebijc,[4] and it is 200 miles from Scafal, and the country is called Maerabite, and there they do not know money, but they exchange gold and ſilver for other goods.

On the 18th of July we ſailed thence and arrived in a kingdom called Hylo,[5] and here is a king very rich, and him we compelled to pay 1,500 matcals annually to the King of Portugal; each matcall is worth in Flemiſh money 9 ſ. 4 pence. He has, moreover, from the ſame king a banner, as a mark that he

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[1] Zara or Cuama.
[2] Sabia, between the Cape and 20° S.
[3] Kaffir land.
[4] Mozambique.
[5] Quiloa.

recogniſes him for his ſovereign. But when the king came out from his court, they threw water and ſmall branches over his head, and they were very merry and clapped their hands, and ſung and danced. The king and all the people, men and women, walk naked, but they have a piece of ſtuff round their loins, and they go every day to waſh themſelves in the ſea. There are here oxen without horns, but they have like a ſaddle on their back. There are alſo ſheep with big tails as there were never ſuch, and the tail is better than the half of the ſheep. There are alſo crows which are black and white; there grow alſo onions which are nearly two palms wide.

On the 20th of July we ſailed thence, and arrived in an iſland called Melinda,[1] which is 100 miles from Kilo. But we miſſed it, and went to the Cape of Saint Mary.[2] There we put our things in order, and we had ſtill to croſs a gulf which is well 700 miles wide. There we left the country of the Paepians,[3] and arrived before the country of Marabia,[4] and it was the 30th day of July. And after having ſailed 100 miles, we ſhaped our courſe to the north-eaſt.

It muſt be known that there is winter all the time from April to September, and then the wind blows

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[1] Melinda, not an iſland. [2] Ras Mory, Socotra.
[3] In early maps Caffraria is limited by Abyſſinia.
[4] Iram-Arabia?

from the ſouth-eaſt during the whole time; and from September to April it is ſummer, and the wind blows during the whole time from the north-eaſt, from each a half year. And as is the wind ſo is the current, and the ſummer is of a very bad kind, for I ſuffered by it for a whole year.

On the 5th day of Auguſt we ſaw the Polar Star, and were very glad of it, for we were ſtill more than 500 miles from India.

In fifteen days we ſailed acroſs the great gulf of 770 miles, and it was on the 21ſt day of Auguſt we ſaw the land of India, and ſaw a great city called Combaen,[1] and it is a large trading town, and it is ſituate near the country of Caldea or Babylon, on the river of Cobar.[2]

Near the land beyond High Arabia is the town of Mecha, where is buried Mahomet, the devil of the pagans; and the town is 600 miles from the eaſt, whence ſpices, pearls, and precious ſtones are brought to our country after croſſing a gulf.

We paſſed beyond a town called Oan,[3] and there is a king; this king has at leaſt 8,000 horſes and 700 elephants of war alone in his country; and each town has his own king, and we took 400 ſhips from Oan, and we killed the people and burnt the ſhips.

Thence we ſailed and arrived in an iſland called

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[1] Cambay. [2] Saubermattee. [3] Goa.

Avidibe;[1] there we took in water and wood, and we landed at leaſt 300 of our invalids, and we killed a lizard which was at leaſt five feet long.

On the 11th day of September we arrived in a kingdom called Cannaer,[2] and it is ſituate near a chain of mountains called Montebyl,[3] and there we watched the ſhips of Meccha, and they are ſhips which carry the ſpices which come to our country, and we ſpoiled the woods, ſo that the King of Portugal alone ſhould get ſpices from there. But it was impoſſible for us to accompliſh our deſign. Nevertheleſs at the ſame time we took a Meccha ſhip, on board of which were 380 men and many women and children, and we took from it at leaſt 12,000 ducats and at leaſt 10,000 more worth of goods, and we burnt the ſhip and all the people on board with gun powder, on the firſt day of October.

Here alſo are ſtags, which have alſo large horns which riſe ſtraight from their head, and they are twiſted like a ſcrew.

On the 20th day of October we went to the country of Cannaer,[4] and bought there all kinds of ſpices, and the king came in great ſtate, bringing with him two elephants and ſeveral ſtrange animals which I cannot name.

On the 27th day of October we ſailed thence, and

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[1] Anjeedeeva.
[2] Cananor.
[3] Mont Ely of Marco Polo.
[4] Cananor.

arrived in a kingdom called Calcoen,[1] which is 40 miles from Cannaer, and we muſtered our forces before the town, and we fought with them during three days, and we took a great number of people, and we hanged them to the yards of the ſhips, and taking them down, we cut off their hands, feet, and heads; and we took one of their ſhips and threw into it the hands, feet, and heads, and we wrote a letter, which we put on a ſtick, and we left that ſhip to go a-drift towards the land. We took there a ſhip which we put on fire, and burnt many of the ſubjects of the king.

On the 2nd day of November we ſailed from Calcoen 60 miles to a kingdom called Cuſſchaïn;[2] and between theſe two towns is a Chriſtian kingdom called Granor,[3] and there are many good Chriſtians; and in this kingdom live many Jews, and they have a prince there. You underſtand that all the Jews of the country are alſo ſubjects of the ſame prince. And the Chriſtians have nothing to do with any body, and they are good Chriſtians. They neither ſell nor buy anything during the conſecrated days, and they neither eat nor drink with anybody but Chriſtians. They willingly came to our ſhips with fowls and ſheep, and cauſed us to make good cheer. They had juſt ſent prieſts to the pope at Rome to know the true faith.

On the 28th day of November we went to the

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[1] Calicut. [2] Cochin. [3] Travancore.

country of Cuſſchaïn to ſpeak with the king; and the king came to us in great ſtate, bringing with him ſix war elephants; for he has many elephants in his country, and many ſtrange animals which I do not know. Then our chiefs which we had with us ſpoke to the king, in order to buy ſpices and other things.

On the 3rd day of January we ſailed thence for a town which is called Coloen,[1] and there came many good Chriſtians, and they filled two of our ſhips with ſpices; and there are nearly 25,000 Chriſtians, and they paid us a tribute like the Jews. There are nearly 300 Chriſtian churches, and they bear the names of the apoſtles and other ſaints. Fifty miles from Coloen is an iſland which is called Steloun,[2] where is to be found the beſt cinnamon which can be met with.

Six days from Coloen is a town which is called Lapis,[3] and near by is Saint Thomas in the ſea. It is there that for a fortnight about the time of his feſtival the ſea may be paſſed on foot, and they give the ſacrament to all who are worthy to receive it, and refuſe it to the unworthy. And this place is four days diſtant from the great city of Ediſſen,[4] where he built the large palace. But this above-mentioned town of Lapis is

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[1] Culan, Quilom. [2] Ceylon. [3] Meliapour.
[4] Edeſſe.

for the moſt part ruined, and the Chriſtians inhabit it on condition of paying a tribute, and everybody, including the king and the queen, walk naked, with the exception of their loins, which are covered.

Eight hundred miles from Coloen is a large town called Melatk,[1] whence come the beſt cloves and nutmegs, valuable goods, and precious ſtones.

The people of this country have black teeth, becauſe they eat the leaves of the trees and a white thing like chalk actually with the leaves, and it comes from it that the teeth become black, and that is called tombour,[2] and they carry it always with them wherever they go or are travelling. The pepper grows as the vine does in our country.

There are in the country cats as big as our foxes, and it is from them that the muſk comes, and it is very dear, for a cat is worth 100 ducats, and the muſk grows between his legs, under his tail.

Ginger grows as a reed, and cinnamon as a willow; and every year they ſtrip the cinnamon from its bark, however thin it is, and the youngeſt is the better. The true ſummer is in December and January.

On the 12th of February we fought with the king of Calcoen, who had thirty-five ſhips, beſides the rowing boats. In each of theſe boats were about ſixty to ſeventy men, and we had no more than twenty-two

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[1] Malacca?

[2] Betel.

men, and with that, thanks to God, we beat them; and we took two large ſhips, and ſlaughtered all the people that were in them, and burnt the ſhips before the town of Calcoen, where the king was preſent; and the next day we ſailed for Cannaer, and prepared everything to return to Portugal. That happened in 1503, the 12th day of February.

On the 22nd day of March, after the ſetting of the ſun, it was on the north, and the 13th day of March we had loſt the polar ſtar.

On the 26th day of March we made out two iſlands, but we did not chooſe to land there, becauſe we were loaded with valuable goods, and as the people of the country ſaw that we would not land, they lighted a large fire to attract us.

On the 10th of April we ſaw again the country of the Paepians, and then we had been forty-eight days in the gulf.

On the 13th day of April we ſaw the country of Meſkebaïl,[1] previouſly mentioned, and we remained there till the 16th day of June, and thence we ſailed again; and that is the time when the days are ſhorteſt.

There is a great kingdom called Coloen, previouſly deſcribed. There the pearls grow in a kind of oyſter in the ſea; but the ſea is no more than four to ſeven

[1] Mozambique.

fathoms deep, and there are fiſhermen who fiſh them with wooden baſkets. They put the baſkets in their mouth or on their noſe, and then go down under the water, where they may remain nearly a quarter of an hour, and when they have caught ſomething they come back to the ſurface, and ſo on.

On the 14th day of June bread and victuals began to fail us, and we ſtill were nearly 1,780 miles from Liſbon.

On the 30th day of June we found an iſland, where we killed at leaſt 300 men, and we caught many of them, and we took there water and departed thence on the 1ſt day of Auguſt.

On the 13th day of Auguſt we ſaw again the polar ſtar, and we ſtill were well 600 miles from Portugal.

In the year 1502 the infidels loſt 180 ſhips; but if the ſhips had not been loſt, we ſhould have been very badly off, for they were our enemies.

And thus we came back healthy and ſafe to Portugal.

Deo Gratias.

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